

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application.

Listings of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A communication control apparatus for controlling multipoint communication conducted using a plurality of communication apparatuses connected via a communication circuit, comprising:

a request processing ~~means~~ unit for inquiring to a designated communication apparatus whether it intends to attend multipoint communication when receiving information designating that communication apparatus and a request seeking the attendance of that designated communication apparatus in the multipoint communication, and for sending information necessary for the designated communication apparatus to attend the multipoint communication to the designated communication apparatus; and

a communication control ~~means~~ unit for controlling the multipoint communication among the plurality of communication apparatuses including the designated communication apparatus when receiving an answer from the designated communication apparatus to the effect of attending the multipoint communication.

2. (Currently Amended) A communication control apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein the request processing ~~means~~ unit notifies the communication apparatus issuing the request that it has received an answer from the designated communication apparatus to the effect of refusing to attend the multipoint communication when receiving the same.

3. (Currently Amended) A communication control apparatus as set forth in claim 2, wherein the request processing ~~means~~ unit notifies the communication apparatus issuing an answer to the effect of refusing to attend the multipoint communication of at least one of a state of said multipoint communication and content of the conversation at a predetermined timing.

4. (Currently Amended) A communication control apparatus as set forth in claim 3, wherein the request processing ~~means~~ unit notifies the apparatus when at least one of the attendants in the multipoint communication and content of communication changes.

5. (Currently Amended) A communication control apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein the request processing ~~means~~ unit sends information about at least one of the attendants in the multipoint communication, the content of the conversation, a charging method, and time to the designated communication apparatus when making the inquiry.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Original) A communication control apparatus as set forth in claim 6, wherein the information necessary for attendance in the multipoint communication is information identifying the multipoint communication and a password.

8. (Currently Amended) A communication control apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein the communication control ~~means~~ unit controls data transmitted from the plurality of communication apparatuses engaged in the multipoint communication to be received by other communication apparatuses other than the communication apparatuses transmitting the data.

9. (Currently Amended) A communication control apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein

the request processing ~~means~~ unit inquires to the communication apparatus designated by a request whether it intends to attend the multipoint communication when receiving a request seeking opening of multipoint communication, and

the communication control ~~means~~ unit starts control of the multipoint communication by the plurality of communication apparatuses including the designated communication apparatus when receiving an answer from that communication apparatus to the effect that it will attend the multipoint communication.

10. (Currently Amended) A communication control apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein

the request processing ~~means~~ unit instructs the communication control ~~means~~ unit to break the connection of the multipoint communication when receiving a request seeking the same from a communication apparatus attending the multipoint communication, and

the communication control ~~means~~ unit controls the multipoint communication by the plurality of communication apparatus other than the communication apparatus requesting the disconnection from among the plurality of communication apparatuses attending the multipoint communication in response to the command from the request processing ~~means~~ unit.

11. (Currently Amended) A communication control apparatus as set forth in claim 10, wherein

said request processing ~~means~~ unit notifies the other communication apparatuses attending said multipoint communication that said communication apparatus has output a request for disconnection from said multipoint communication.

12. (Currently Amended) A communication control apparatus as set forth in claim 1, further comprising:

a charge processing ~~means~~ unit for carrying out a charge processing on users of said communication apparatus for the service related to said multipoint communication.

13. (Currently Amended) A communication apparatus used for multipoint communication with other communication apparatuses connected via communication circuit, which

receives an inquiry as to if it intends to attend the multipoint communication together with information necessary to connect to the multipoint communication from the communication control apparatus controlling the multipoint communication and automatically accesses the communication control apparatus using the necessary information when receiving a command to the effect of attending the multipoint communication, and

receives information identifying the multipoint communication and information necessary to connect to the multipoint communication and uses the same to automatically access the communication control apparatus.

14. (Currently Amended) A communication apparatus as set forth in claim 13, ~~which receives information identifying the multipoint communication and a password as wherein~~ the received information necessary to connect to the multipoint communication comprises a password and uses the same to automatically access the communication control apparatus.

15. (Currently Amended) A communication apparatus as set forth in claim 13, further comprising:

an operating ~~means~~ unit by which said command to attend said multipoint communication is input.

16. (Currently Amended) A communication apparatus as set forth in claim 13, comprising:

a display ~~means~~ unit for display based on image information sent from said communication control apparatus or said other communication apparatuses.

17. (Currently Amended) A communication apparatus as set forth in claim 13, comprising:

a speech output ~~means~~ unit for speech output based on speech information transmitted from said communication control apparatus or said other communication apparatuses.

18. (Currently Amended) A communication control method for controlling multipoint communication conducted using a plurality of communication apparatuses connected via communication circuit, comprising:

inquiring to a designated communication apparatus whether it intends to attend the multipoint communication when there is information designating a communication apparatus and a request seeking the designated communication apparatus to attend the multipoint communication,

sending information necessary for said designated communication apparatus to attend said multipoint communication to said designated communication apparatus; and

controlling the multipoint communication among the plurality of communication apparatuses including the designated communication apparatus when the designated apparatus gives an answer to the effect of attending the multipoint communication.

19. (Original) A communication control method as set forth in claim 18, further comprising notifying the communication apparatus issuing the request that the designated communication apparatus has given an answer to the effect of refusing to attend the multipoint communication when that is the case.

20. (Original) A communication control method as set forth in claim 18, further comprising notifying said communication apparatus answering that it will not attend said multipoint communication of at least one of a state of said multipoint communication and content of conversation at a predetermined timing.

21. (Original) A communication control method as set forth in claim 20, further comprising providing said notification when at least one of the attendants of said multipoint communication and said content of conversation changes.

22. (Original) A communication control method as set forth in claim 18, further comprising sending information about at least one of the attendants, content of conversation, a charging method, and time of said multipoint communication to said designated communication apparatus when making said inquiry.

23. (Cancelled)

24. (Currently Amended) A communication control method as set forth in claim 18, wherein

said communication control ~~means~~ unit controls data transmitted from the plurality of communication apparatuses engaging in said multipoint communication to be received by other communication apparatuses other than the communication apparatuses transmitting said data.

25. (Currently Amended) A communication control method as set forth in claim 18, further comprising:

inquiring at a communication apparatus designated by a request for opening the multipoint communication whether it intends to attend said multipoint communication when receiving such a request and

starting control of the multipoint communication by the plurality of communication apparatuses including said designated communication apparatus when receiving an answer from said communication apparatus that it will attend said multipoint communication.

26. (Currently Amended) A provision medium for providing a program describing a routine for controlling multipoint communication conducted using a plurality of communication apparatuses connected via communication circuit, wherein the program describes

a routine for inquiring to a designated communication apparatus whether it intends to attend the multipoint communication when there is information designating that communication apparatus and a request seeking that the designated communication apparatus attend the multipoint communication;

a routine for sending information necessary for the designated communication apparatus to attend the multipoint communication to the designated communication apparatus;
and

a routine for controlling the multipoint communication among the plurality of communication apparatuses including the designated communication apparatus process when the designated communication apparatus gives an answer to the effect of attending the multipoint communication.

27. (Original) A provision medium as set forth in claim 26, wherein said program further describes

a routine for notifying said communication apparatus issuing the request that a designated communication apparatus has answered to the effect of refusing to attend said multipoint communication when there is such an apparatus.

28. (Currently Amended) A communication system comprising:

a communication circuit;

a plurality of terminal apparatuses each comprising at least a keyword input means unit for inputting a keyword and communicating with each other via the communication circuit so as to engage in multipoint communication; and

a server comprising a keyword extracting means unit for receiving data including a keyword input by a terminal apparatus and extracting the keyword from the received data, a user database in which user information is registered, a user extracting means unit for comparing a keyword extracted by the keyword extracting means unit with the user information registered in the user database and extracting at least one corresponding user, and a transmitting means unit for transmitting information necessary to attend about the multipoint communication to the users extracted by the user extracting means unit.

29. (Currently Amended) A communication system as set forth in claim 28, wherein each terminal apparatus comprises a speech input means unit, the keyword input means unit includes a speech input means unit, and the keyword extracting means unit of the server includes a means unit for extracting a keyword from speech transmitted from the terminal apparatus.

30. (Currently Amended) A communication system as set forth in claim 29, wherein the keyword extracting means unit includes
a speech-text converting unit for converting speech to text;
a speech database for saving speech data converted in the speech-text converting unit; and
a keyword extracting unit for extracting a keyword based on speech data converted in the speech-text converting unit and data stored in the speech database.

31. (Original) A communication system as set forth in claim 30, wherein the speech-text converting unit stores in the speech database only the speech data relating to a predetermined portion instructed by the terminal apparatus.

32. (Original) A communication system as set forth in claim 30, wherein the speech-text converting unit counts the frequency of use of each word in the data converted to the text and stores the frequency of use and the word data in the speech database.

33. (Original) A communication system as set forth in claim 31, wherein the speech-text converting unit counts the frequency of use of each word in the data converted to the text and stores the frequency of use and the word data in the speech database.

34. (Original) A communication system as set forth in claim 32, wherein the speech-text converting unit counts the total number of words stored in the speech database and stores the words in the conversation and their frequency to an extent by which the total number of words does not exceed a predetermined range.

35. (Original) A communication system as set forth in claim 33, wherein the speech-text converting unit counts the total number of words stored in the speech database and stores the words in the conversation and their frequency to an extent by which the total number of words does not exceed a predetermined range.

36. (Original) A communication system as set forth in claim 34, wherein
the server further comprises a related word memory in which words related to keywords are registered and
the keyword extracting unit extracts a keyword based on a word related to the keyword registered in the related word memory in addition to the speech data and the data stored in the speech database when the total number of words does not exceed the predetermined range.

37. (Original) A communication system as set forth in claim 35, wherein
the server further comprises a related word memory in which words related to keywords are registered and
the keyword extracting unit extracts a keyword based on a word related to the keyword registered in the related word memory in addition to the speech data and the data stored in the speech database when the total number of words does not exceed the predetermined range.

38. (Currently Amended) A communication system as set forth in claim 36, wherein the keyword extracting means unit extracts word data having a high frequency of use from conversation data stored in the speech database when the total number of words exceeds the predetermined range, compares the extracted word data with the word data related to the keyword registered in the related word memory to extract at least one related word, and clears the speech database and the total number of words after extracting the related word.

39. (Currently Amended) A communication system as set forth in claim 37, wherein the keyword extracting means unit extracts word data having a high frequency of use from conversation data stored in the speech database when the total number of words exceeds the predetermined range, compares the extracted word data with the word data related to the keyword registered in the related word memory to extract at least one related word, and clears the speech database and the total number of words after extracting the related word.

40. (Original) A communication system as set forth in claim 28, wherein
the system further comprises an external control terminal connected to the server,
and

the server receives as input only a keyword from the terminals attending the multipoint communication and particularly approved terminals not attending the multipoint communication or the external control terminal connected to the server.

41. (Original) A communication system as set forth in claim 28, wherein
the system further comprises an external control terminal connected to the server,
and

terminals attending the multipoint communication and particularly approved terminals not attending the multipoint communication or the external control terminal connected to the server transmit to the server information for restricting other terminals sending information about the multipoint communication.

42. (Original) A communication system as set forth in claim 28, wherein the information about the multipoint communication includes at least one of a theme of multipoint

communication, a number of attendants, a charging method, an access point, and a list of the attendants.

43. (Currently Amended) A communication method where a plurality of terminal apparatuses communicate with each other via communication circuit for multipoint communication, comprising:

a step of receiving data including a keyword transmitted from a terminal apparatus and extracting the keyword from the received data;

a step of comparing the extracted keyword with previously registered user information and extracting at least one corresponding user; and

a step of transmitting information necessary to attend ~~about~~ the multipoint communication to the extracted user.

44. (Original) A communication method as set forth in claim 43, wherein the step for extracting the keyword extracts the keyword in speech sent from the terminal apparatus.

45. (Currently Amended) A communication method as set forth in claim 44, wherein the step for extracting the keyword is comprised of:

a step of converting speech to text;

a step of storing the speech data converted to text; and

a step of extracting the keyword based on the converted speech data and the stored data.

46. (Original) A communication method as set forth in claim 45, wherein the step of storing the speech data stores only the speech data related to a predetermined portion instructed by the terminal apparatus.

47. (Original) A communication method as set forth in claim 45, wherein the step of storing the speech data counts the frequency of use for each word in the data converted to text and stores the frequency of use and word data.

48. (Original) A communication method as set forth in claim 46, wherein the step of storing the speech data counts the frequency of use for each word in the data converted to text and stores the frequency of use and word data.

49. (Original) A communication method as set forth in claim 47, wherein the step of storing the speech data counts the stored total number of words and stores the words in conversation and their frequency of use to an extent by which the total number of words does not exceed a predetermined range.

50. (Original) A communication method as set forth in claim 48, wherein the step of storing the speech data counts the stored total number of words and stores the words in conversation and their frequency of use to an extent by which the total number of words does not exceed a predetermined range.

51. (Original) A communication method as set forth in claim 49, wherein the step of extracting the keyword extracts a keyword based on a word related to the keyword registered in advance in addition to the converted speech data and the stored data when the total number of words does not exceed the predetermined range.

52. (Original) A communication method as set forth in claim 50, wherein the step of extracting the keyword extracts a keyword based on a word related to the keyword registered in advance in addition to the converted speech data and the stored data when the total number of words does not exceed the predetermined range.

53. (Currently Amended) A communication method as set forth in claim 50, wherein the step of extracting the keyword is comprised of:

a step of extracting word data having a high frequency of use from stored conversation data when the total number of words exceeds the predetermined range,

a step of comparing the extracted word data with the word data related to the registered keyword to extract at least one related word, and

a step of clearing the stored speech data and the total number of words after extracting the related word.

54. (Currently Amended) A communication method as set forth in claim 52, wherein the step of extracting the keyword is comprised of:

a step of extracting word data having a high frequency of use from stored conversation data when the total number of words exceeds the predetermined range,

a step of comparing the extracted word data with the word data related to the registered keyword to extract at least one related word, and

a step of clearing the stored speech data and the total number of words after extracting the related word.

55. (Original) A communication method as set forth in claim 43, further comprising inputting a keyword from a terminal attending the multipoint communication and a particularly approved terminal not attending the multipoint communication or an external control terminal connected to a server.

56. (Original) A communication method as set forth in claim 43, further comprising restricting the other terminals sending information about the multipoint communication by a terminal attending the multipoint communication and a particularly approved terminal not attending the multipoint communication or an external control terminal connected to a server.

57. (Original) A communication method as set forth in claim 43, wherein said information about the multipoint communication includes at least one of a theme of the multipoint communication, the number of the attendants, a charging method, an access point, and a list of the attendants.

58. (Currently Amended) A provision medium providing a program for making a computer execute

a step of receiving data including a keyword transmitted from a terminal apparatus engaged in multipoint communication by communicating through a communication circuit and extracting the keyword from the received data;

a step of comparing the extracted keyword with previously registered user information and extracting at least one corresponding user; and

a step of transmitting information necessary to attend ~~about~~ the multipoint communication to the extracted user.

59. (Original) A provision medium as set forth in claim 58, which provides a program wherein the step for extracting the keyword extracts the keyword in speech sent from the terminal apparatus.

60. (Original) A provision medium as set forth in claim 59, which provides a program where the step for extracting the keyword includes

a step of converting speech to text;

a step of storing the speech data converted to text; and

a step of extracting the keyword based on the converted speech data and the stored data.

61. (Original) A provision medium as set forth in claim 60, which provides a program where the step of storing the speech data stores only the speech data related to a predetermined portion instructed by the terminal apparatus.

62. (Original) A provision medium as set forth in claim 60, which provides a program where the step of storing the speech data counts the frequency of use for each word in the data converted to text and stores the frequency of use and word data.

63. (Original) A provision medium as set forth in claim 61, which provides a program where the step of storing the speech data counts the frequency of use for each word in the data converted to text and stores the frequency of use and word data.

64. (Original) A provision medium as set forth in claim 62, which provides a program where the step of storing the speech data counts the stored total number of words and stores the words in conversation and their frequency of use to an extent by which the total number of words does not exceed a predetermined range.

65. (Original) A provision medium as set forth in claim 63, which provides a program where the step of storing the speech data counts the stored total number of words and

stores the words in conversation and their frequency of use to an extent by which the total number of words does not exceed a predetermined range.

66. (Original) A provision medium as set forth in claim 64, which provides a program where the step of extracting the keyword extracts a keyword based on a word related to the keyword registered in advance in addition to the converted speech data and the stored data when the total number of words does not exceed the predetermined range.

67. (Original) A provision medium as set forth in claim 65, which provides a program where the step of extracting the keyword extracts a keyword based on a word related to the keyword registered in advance in addition to the converted speech data and the stored data when the total number of words does not exceed the predetermined range.

68. (Currently Amended) A provision medium as set forth in claim 66, which provides a program where the step of extracting the keyword is comprised of:

- a step of extracting word data having a high frequency of use from stored conversation data when the total number of words exceeds the predetermined range,

- a step of comparing the extracted word data with the word data related to the registered keyword to extract at least one related word, and

- a step of clearing the stored speech data and the total number of words after extracting the related word.

69. (Currently Amended) A provision medium as set forth in claim 67, which provides a program where the step of extracting the keyword is comprised of:

- a step of extracting word data having a high frequency of use from stored conversation data when the total number of words exceeds the predetermined range,

- a step of comparing the extracted word data with the word data related to the registered keyword to extract at least one related word, and

- a step of clearing the stored speech data and the total number of words after extracting the related word.